

# CU Buffs among first to go HD for filming football

**CU hopes film study will be more efficient, accessible**

**By Kyle Ringo** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

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College football coaches will take just about any advantage they can get on the competition and more often than not these days those advantages come in the form of improved technology.

Coach Jon Embree and his staff at Colorado were the first in the nation this spring to shoot all football practice video in HD quality thanks to a long-standing relationship with XOS Digital, Inc., a Florida-based provider of content management and digital media services for college and pro sports teams.

Five other programs, including arch rival Nebraska also began using the technology shortly after the Buffs this spring as XOS tested the product before releasing it to the rest of the college and pro football world.

Jamie Guy, director of sports video at CU, is one of the most respected names in his field at the college level. Guy said shooting practice video in HD vastly improves the experience for coaches and players when they study film later.

"It's unbelievable," offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy said. "I don't have to wear my glasses to watch film any more."

The clarity of the video is important because it will save time for coaches in the future as more programs begin using HD. Guy said it has already cut the time it takes him to edit and prepare the video by 45 minutes after each practice.

"On kick off and kick off return it was difficult for coaches to see the numbers on the opposing players jerseys," Guy said. "When they would compose their depth charts they had to zoom in on each individual player and it still wasn't very clear what their jersey numbers were. It was time consuming and cumbersome. Now the video is very clear and they can see the numbers easily."

Bieniemy spent the past five seasons in the NFL with the Minnesota Vikings and said the technology would have made a big difference in maximizing preparation time. Guy said the San Francisco 49ers are supposed to be the first NFL franchise to use HD when NFL teams are allowed to practice once again.

The improved technology will ultimately make coaches and players more efficient in when and how they are able to watch film. In the past, they have set aside time at the Dal Ward Center to study and coaches have taken video with them on the road on laptops or DVDs.

The Colorado staff is now able to watch film on iPads purchased for each coach. It allows them access to much more content as they are on the road recruiting during the spring evaluation period over the next six weeks and at other times of the year when they leave campus to recruit or coach road games. If they are on a plane with wifi capability, they can study film while in the air.

Getting players to watch film isn't as easy as one might believe. Coaches have had the ability in the past to see who is studying film and who isn't through a tracking system in the software. Embree said nine players on last year's Colorado team never even logged into their machines the entire season.

Athletic director Mike Bohn is exploring the possibility and the funding to provide each member of the team with an iPad to make it that much easier for players. If they are able to provide iPads to all the Buffs, players will be able to study film between classes on campus, off campus at their favorite local eatery or at home at night before bed.

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# Mel Kiper: CB Jimmy Smith's character shouldn't scare off Lions

BY DAVE BIRKETT

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Even if Patrick Peterson and Prince Amukamara are off the board, the Detroit Lions still could draft a cornerback in the first round.

ESPN draft analyst Mel Kiper said today that Colorado cornerback Jimmy Smith has rehabbed his image to the point where no one would blink if the Lions took him with the 13th overall pick.

"It wouldn't be overdrafting," Kiper said. "If Philadelphia's looking at Jimmy Smith, and Baltimore's looking at Jimmy Smith (later in the first round), then why shouldn't Detroit look at Jimmy Smith? In the '80s and even in the '90s, I think value meant something. Value now is based on teams' own preference and how they value them.

"And if Jimmy Smith is the guy that they felt like they did all their homework on, talentwise, it's a no-brainer. He's a top-10 guy. So you're picking at 13, you can see we got one of the best five to 10 players in this draft, from a pure talent standpoint." Smith is widely considered one of the three most talented cornerbacks available in next week's draft -- even No. 1 on some

boards. He's 6-feet-2 and 211 pounds and ran a 4.46-second 40-yard dash at February's NFL combine. But he also has several character flags, including an admitted failed drug test from his early days at Colorado.

The Lions brought in Smith for a visit last month, and general manager Martin Mayhew said he was "impressed" and "glad that we talked to him."

"He has been moved up because the character issue and the off-the-field issue is not as big a deal as people thought it might be," Kiper said. "So all of a sudden, Jimmy Smith, with all that great talent and all those outstanding performances he had in press (coverage), Jimmy Smith's now up there.

"You could see Jimmy Smith get picked at 13. Amukamara would be in the mix at 13. So right now, Jimmy Smith's improvement, in terms of his status and on the big board and where he's viewed right now, I think helps the Lions out a little bit. If they want to move down a little bit and look at Jimmy Smith, they probably could, because the teams picking right after them don't need a

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corner.”

Kiper said Amukamara's floor is the Lions, though the Dallas Cowboys at pick No. 9 and the Houston Texans at No. 11 also could take the Nebraska product.

Peterson is a consensus top-seven pick. “I think there’s four outstanding corners in this draft, and then there’s a drop-off,” Kiper said. “I’d say Peterson, then Amukamara, Smith would be right there, and then (Texas’ Aaron) Williams, because he’s a guy that some people will kick inside (to safety). He’s a heck of a football player. And then you get into the next tier.”

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Colorado defensive back Jimmy Smith runs a drill during the NFL scouting combine in Indianapolis on March 1, 2011. / AP

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